

Application No. 10/519,506
Amendment Dated March 28, 2006
Reply to Office Action of January 9, 2006

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed January 9, 2006, has been carefully considered by Applicant. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing claim amendments and the remarks that follow.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 4 is indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By the present Amendment, claim 4 is amended to independent form and includes the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. As such, claim 4 is in condition for allowance, in accordance with the Office Action.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Becker et al U.S. Patent No. 3,886,885. Claims 1-3 are hereby amended to place the same in condition for examination according to U.S. practice. Substantive amendment of the claims is not believed necessary to overcome the Becker et al '885 reference for the following reasons.

Claim 1

Becker et al '885 fails to teach or suggest the claimed cargo pressure tank wherein the pipe is the only connection between the outside and the inside of the tank. It is true that Becker et al '885 teaches storage receptacles (1-5) and syphon tubes (11-15) extending into the receptacles and having an open end near the bottom portion of the receptacles. Each of the syphon tubes connect to a common network conduit (9), which leads to an inlet/outlet valve (17).

However, the interior of the receptacles (1-5) is also open to outer conduit network (10), which communicates with both vent valve (19) and cutoff valve (16). (See Figs. 1 and 2; column 5, lines 30-55). The arrangement of Fig. 2 employs openings along the upper edge portion of the pipe network (10) for communication between the interior of the receptacles and the network.

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Essentially, network (9) communicates with the lower part of the receptacles (1-5) through the syphon tubes (11-15), while the outer conduit network (10) communicates with the upper part of the receptacles (1-5). When liquid gas is to be discharged from the receptacles, the pressure is increased in the network (10) in order to displace the liquid up the syphon tubes (see column 6, lines 7-11).

Claims 2 and 3

Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1 and are thus believed allowable for the reasons stated above, as well as the detailed subject matter recited therein.

Claims 5-15

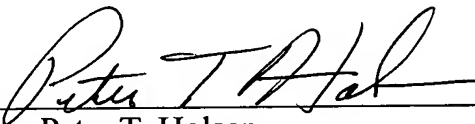
Claims 5-15 are added and further define the present invention, and are believed allowable over the applied reference for, among other things, the reasons stated above.

Conclusion

The present application is thus believed in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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